

# **BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA 65TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION**

Prepared by the  
Naval Warfare Division  
Naval Historical Center  
Washington, DC  
April 2007

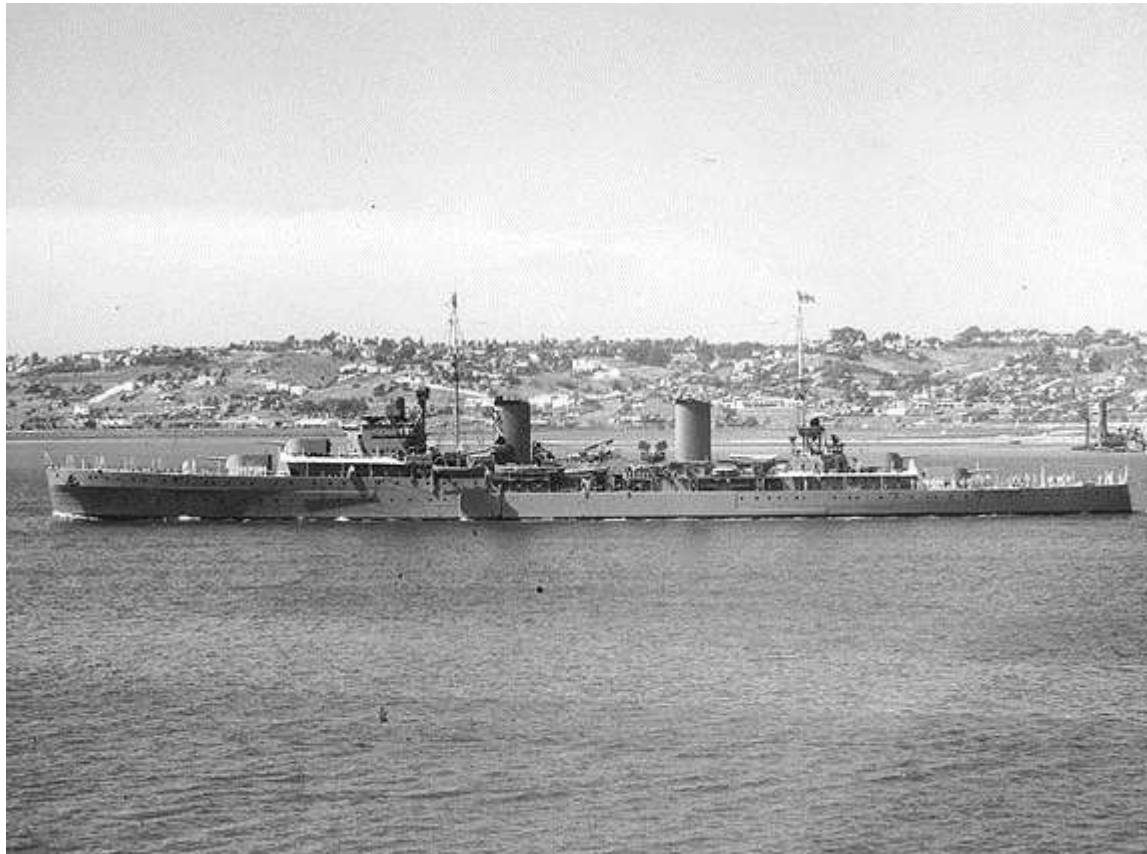
# **IMPORTANCE OF THE BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA**

- Blunted Japanese advance designed to take Port Moresby, New Guinea, and move southward to threaten lines of communication between Australia and U.S.
- Initiated actions which led to the Guadalcanal campaign later in 1942–1943 that would end significant Japanese threat to the lines of communication between Australia and U.S.
- Viewed by many Australians as the battle that saved their nation from Japanese invasion
- First sea battle in history in which surface ships did not sight each other

# AUSTRALIAN DEFENSE SITUATION

## 7 DECEMBER 1941

- Majority of Australian forces committed to support British efforts in Europe, the Middle East, and Indian Ocean
  - ❑ Three infantry divisions, several Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) squadrons were in UK and Med/Middle East, and 3 Royal Australian Navy (RAN) destroyers and 1 cruiser were in the Med
    - Infantry had seen heavy fighting in North Africa, Greece, and Crete
    - Many Australian aviators serving in British squadrons
- Australians also supported activities in the Indian Ocean area
  - ❑ One infantry division assigned to the Malay Peninsula and Singapore
  - ❑ Naval forces including destroyers and cruisers active in Indian Ocean
    - Light cruiser HMAS *Sydney* lost after action with German raider off western Australia in November 1941
- Relatively few forces of any service in Australia at the outbreak of the Pacific War
  - ❑ Available land forces largely newly trained or militia
  - ❑ Available RAAF elements largely newly trained, equipped with inferior aircraft
  - ❑ RAN forces in Indian Ocean could help defend Western Australia



The Australian light cruiser HMAS *Hobart*. At the outbreak of the Pacific War, *Hobart* was serving in the Mediterranean supporting British efforts, as were many Australian forces. She served in Rear Admiral Crace's Support Force during the Battle of the Coral Sea.

# FROM PEARL HARBOR TO THE CORAL SEA

- Allied Forces suffer series of defeats in early months
  - ❑ Pearl Harbor
  - ❑ Malaya
    - Loss of British capital ships
    - Destruction of 8th Australian Division
  - ❑ Dutch East Indies
    - Australia loses light cruiser HMAS *Perth*, U.S. loses heavy cruiser *Houston*, seaplane tender *Langley*, several destroyers, many ships damaged
  - ❑ Philippines
    - Most U.S. & Filipino forces withdraw to Bataan, surrender in April
    - Most U.S. aviation assets destroyed, naval forces battered in Dutch East Indies
- U.S. carrier task forces launch a series of raids against Japanese positions in Central Pacific
  - ❑ Hit Gilbert and Marshall Islands on 1 February
  - ❑ Strikes on Wake and Marcus Atolls late February and early March
  - ❑ Raid on Japan 18 April: 16 USAAF B-25 bombers launched from *Hornet* strike several Japanese cities

# PACIFIC DEFENSE POLICY

## ➤ ARCADIA Conference

- Churchill and FDR agree on a “Germany First” policy in late December 1941
- Forces facing Japan are told to hold the line
- U.S. & U.K. agree to establish Combined Chiefs of Staff as the supreme body for war planning
  - Appoint supreme commanders in each theater of operations

## ➤ U.S. & U.K. change policy on war versus Japan in March 1942

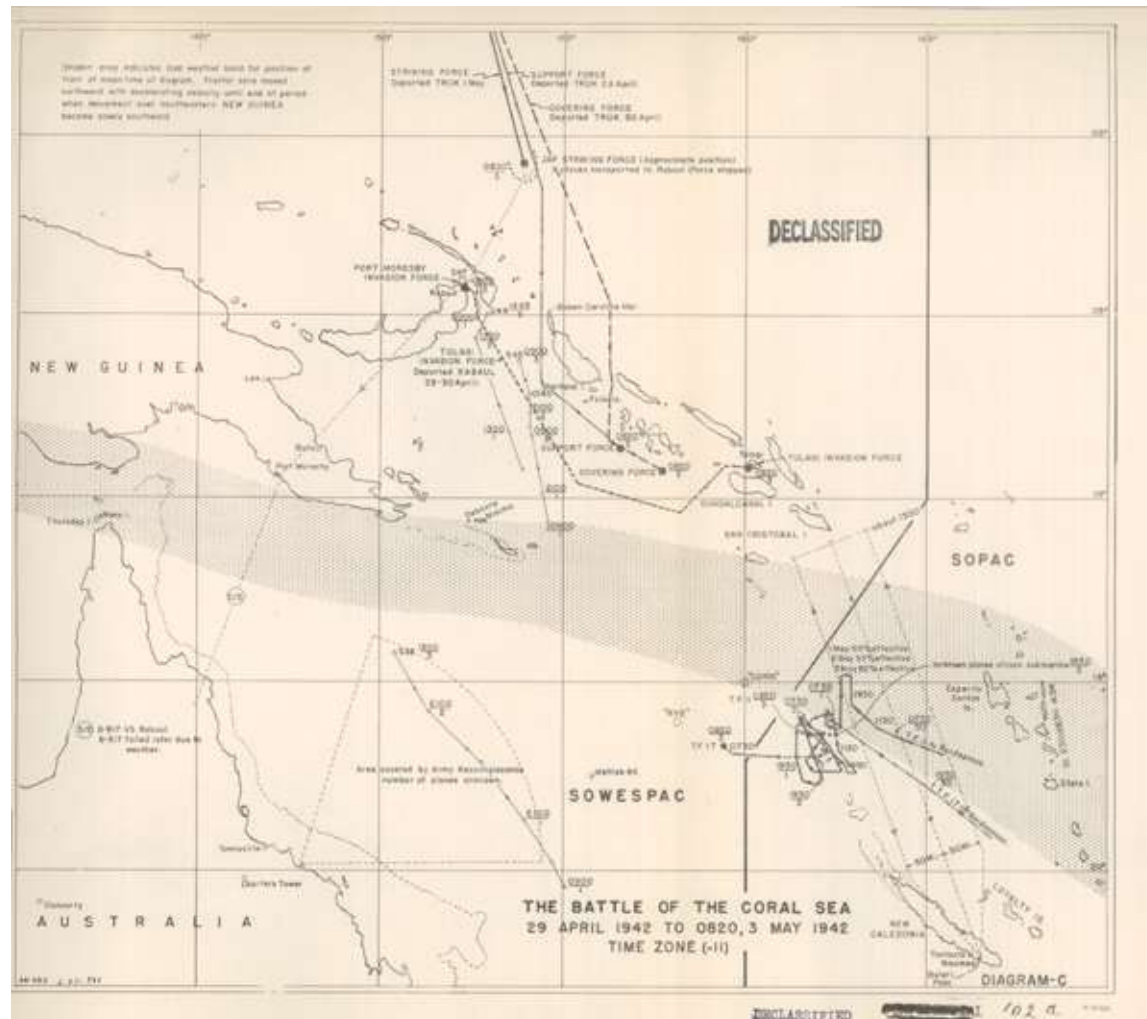
- U.S. responsible for defense of the entire Pacific, including Australia and New Zealand
- British assume responsibility for defense of the Indian Ocean and Middle East

## ➤ U.S. moves forces into Australia

- During early 1942 U.S. Army and U.S. Army Air Forces (USAAF) to Australia
  - Aircraft (mostly bombers, some fighters), some of which had been evacuated from Philippines and East Indies
  - Many specialist troops (engineers, coast artillery)
  - Main ground combat forces sent are built around two recently mobilized National Guard divisions

# KEY EVENTS IN THE CAMPAIGN BEARING UPON THE BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA

- 8 March: Japanese naval forces occupy Lae and Salamaua, New Guinea
- 10 March: Lae-Salamaua Raid
  - ❑ Initial raids by RAAF bombers not effective
    - Local bush pilots provide last-minute intelligence that there is enough ceiling for USN planes to fly through a gap in Owen Stanley Range on New Guinea
  - ❑ U.S. Navy Task Force 11, which includes 2 carriers, attacks Japanese invasion fleet
    - Air strike from carriers *Lexington* and *Yorktown* sinks 1 transport and 2 auxiliaries and damages 1 light cruiser, 5 destroyers, and 4 other vessels. One U.S. Navy bomber is lost to antiaircraft fire
    - USAAF B-17 and RAAF Hudson bombers conduct follow-up strikes with minimal effect
- 29 April: Japanese naval force occupies former RAAF seaplane base at Tulagi, Solomons
- 2 May: Japanese special landing force lands on Florida Island, Solomons
- 2 May: Bombers from *Yorktown* bomb Japanese submarine *I-21* in the Coral Sea
  - ❑ *I-21* reports being attacked by planes, but significantly fails to specify whether or not her attackers are land- or carrier-based, thus ensuring that U.S. carrier task force approach to the Solomons remains undetected

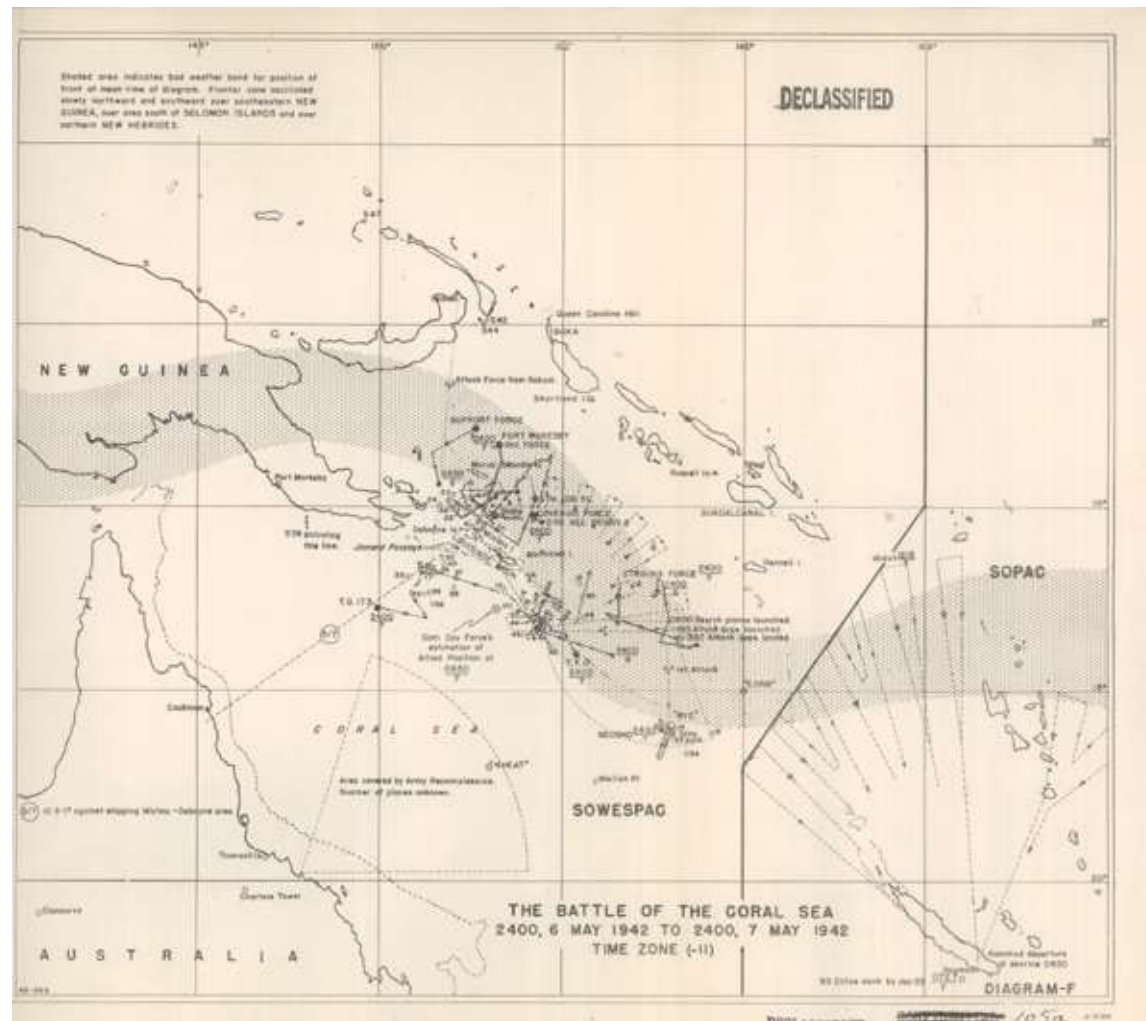


Map showing the movement of U.S. and Japanese forces immediately prior to the Battle of the Coral Sea

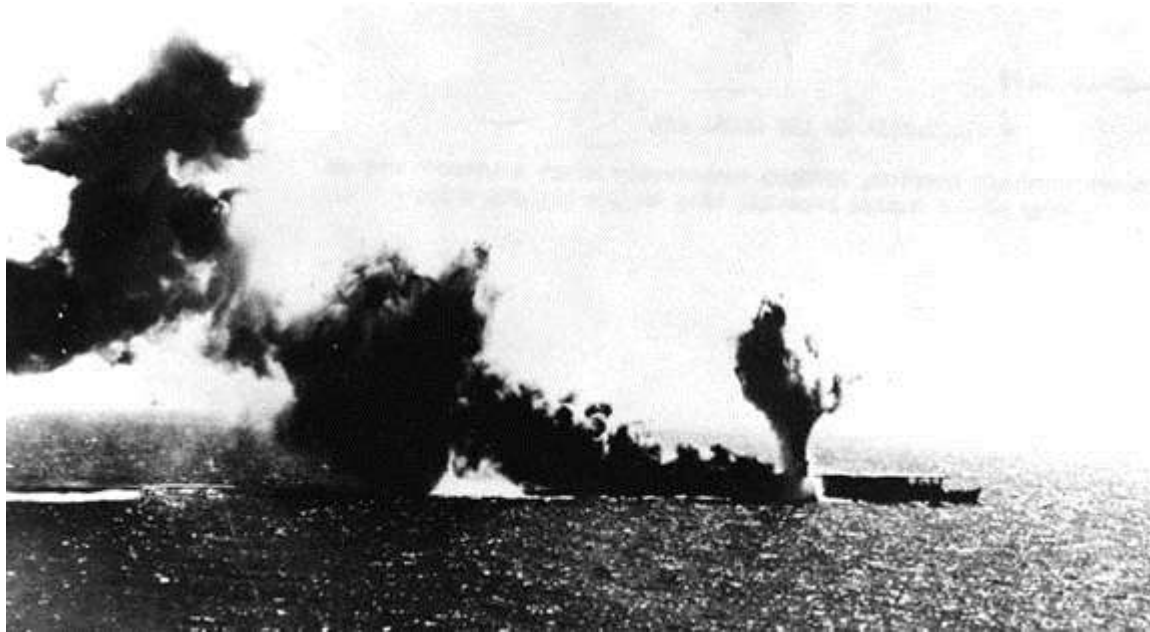


# BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA

- 4 May: U.S. carrier task force (TF 17), under Rear Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher, attacks forces at Tulagi, Solomons
  - Bombers and fighters from *Yorktown* carry out three strikes against Japanese ships at Tulagi, sinking four and damaging four
- 7 May: Admiral Fletcher's TF 17 turns north to engage Japanese Carrier Strike Force
  - Fletcher detaches Support Group under Australian-born Rear Admiral John G. Crace, RN to intercept Japanese Port Moresby Invasion Force
    - Crace's force includes Australian cruisers *Australia* and *Hobart*, U.S. cruiser *Chicago* and two U.S. destroyers
    - Group attacked by Japanese land attack planes; U.S. destroyer *Farragut* damaged by friendly fire while repelling air attack. Later, mistaken for the Japanese Port Moresby Invasion Force, Crace's ships are bombed by USAAF B-26s that straddle *Australia* and near-miss *Chicago* and destroyer *Perkins*
  - U.S. carrier torpedo and dive bombers attack Japanese Close Support Force and sink small carrier *Shoho* in the Coral Sea
  - Japanese planes damage U.S. oiler *Neosho* and sink destroyer *Sims*, initially mistaking them for a carrier and a cruiser
  - Japanese planes trying to find U.S. force in waning daylight run afoul of bad weather and some actually enter *Yorktown*'s landing pattern, but are driven off by antiaircraft fire and fighters
    - Japanese operational losses in the unsuccessful mission to find the Americans lessen the number of effective aircraft they can employ the next day



Map showing movements 6-7 May



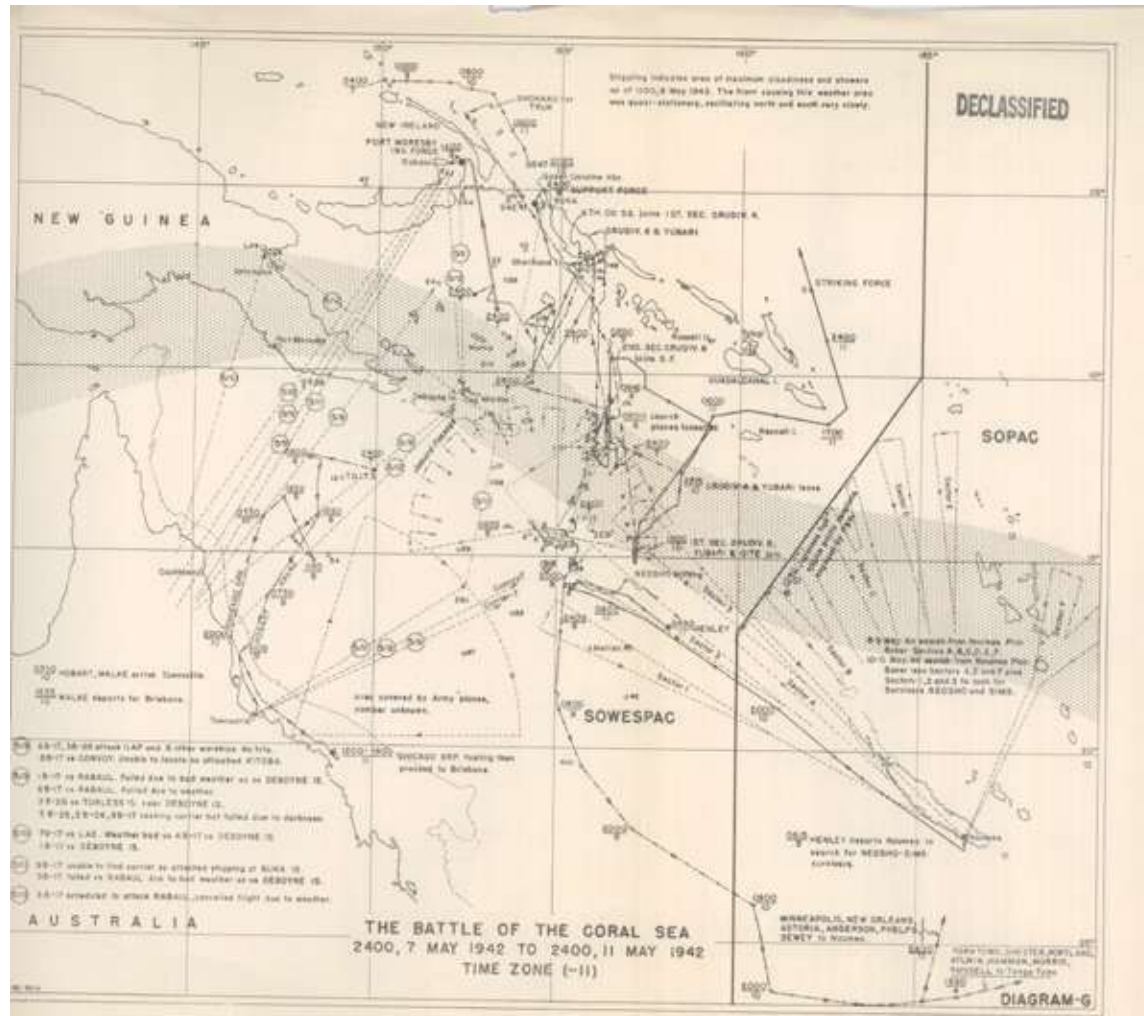
Japanese small carrier *Shoho* under attack by carrier-based torpedo and scout (dive) bombers from *Yorktown*



The Australian heavy cruiser HMAS *Australia*, part of Rear Admiral Crace's force, was attacked by Japanese land-based aircraft and later, mistakenly, by the U.S. Army Air Forces

# BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA

- May 8: Battle of the Coral Sea concludes
  - U.S. air attack on Japanese Carrier Strike Force
    - *Lexington* scout bomber sights Japanese force formed around carriers *Shokaku* and *Zuikaku*
    - Dive bombers from *Lexington* and *Yorktown* damage *Shokaku* and force her retirement
    - *Zuikaku*'s air group suffers heavy losses
    - Damage to *Shokaku*, as well as to *Zuikaku*'s air group, prevents the use of those two carriers for several months
  - Japanese air attack on TF 17
    - With comparatively few fighters for air defense, U.S. carriers resort to using scout bombers as a stop-gap anti-torpedo plane patrol
    - Japanese dive bombers and torpedo planes penetrate the screening aircraft and ships, and damage *Lexington* with bombs and torpedoes and *Yorktown* with bombs
    - *Lexington* is further damaged when gasoline vapors are ignited, triggering massive explosions that lead to her abandonment; she is then scuttled by destroyer *Phelps*



Map showing movements 8–11 May 1942



Douglas SBD Dauntless scout bombers of Bombing Squadron 5 executed the dive bombing attacks on Japanese carriers at Coral Sea



Grumman F4F Wildcat fighters, Douglas SBD Dauntless scout bombers, and Douglas TBD Devastator torpedo bombers on the flight deck as fires burn below deck on *Lexington*



# RESULTS OF THE BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA

- In halting the Japanese push southward and blunting the seaborne thrust toward Port Moresby, Coral Sea is a strategic U.S. victory
  - ❑ Failing to take Port Moresby by sea, the Japanese adopt an overland strategy that ultimately proves disastrous
- The Battle of the Coral Sea is the first engagement in modern naval history in which opposing warships do not exchange a shot. All damage is inflicted by carrier aircraft
- Impact on the Battle of Midway
  - ❑ Damage inflicted by U.S. carrier air groups on Japanese ships and air groups deprives the Japanese of three carriers earmarked for the Midway operation planned for June 1942
  - ❑ Despite damage inflicted on *Yorktown* and losses to her air group, heroic work by shipyard workers at Pearl Harbor and the ability to “crossdeck”—integrating squadrons in Hawaii into the Yorktown Air Group—results in the carrier’s participation in the Midway battle.
    - Japanese squadron and air group organization apparently did not allow for “crossdecking,” otherwise *Zuikaku* likely would have been at Midway

# LATER WORLD WAR II

## U.S./AUSTRALIAN ACTIVITIES

### ➤ U.S. Basing

- ❑ Naval bases
  - Sub bases at Fremantle and Brisbane critical to commerce war on Japan
  - Brisbane important for campaign in New Guinea
  - Sydney key overhaul repair and supply base
- ❑ Air bases provide support for operations in New Guinea, Upper Solomons
- ❑ Staging and training area for U.S. Army forces

### ➤ Campaigns

- ❑ New Guinea
  - U.S. Army and Army Air Forces battle alongside Australian forces in overland assaults
  - Navy lands forces in northern coast in 1944
- ❑ Upper Solomons
- ❑ Dutch East Indies
  - U.S. Navy lands Australian forces on Borneo, other islands in 1945

# **APPENDIX I**

## **KEY EVENTS IN THE EARLY PACIFIC WAR**

# 1941

- 7/8 Dec Japanese attack Pearl Harbor, Philippines, Malay Peninsula
- 10 Dec UK battleship *Prince of Wales* and battlecruiser *Repulse* sunk off Malayan coast by Japanese land based aircraft; loss of only two Allied capital ships in the Indian Ocean/Western Pacific
- Dec–Jan 42 ARCADIA Conference (U.S. & UK) in Washington, DC. Churchill and FDR agree on a “Germany First” policy, forces facing in the Pacific and Asia are to contain the Japanese advance; agree to form Combined Chiefs of Staff as supreme body for war planning and to appoint a single supreme commander in each theater of operations

# 1942

- 2 Jan Manila falls; U.S. and Filipino forces concentrate on the Bataan peninsula
- Jan–Feb U.S. begins sending Army Air Forces and Navy planes to Australia; some are evacuees from Philippines and the Dutch East Indies
- 1 Feb U.S. Navy launches air and surface attacks against Japanese positions in the Marshall and Gilbert Islands from two carrier task forces
- 1 Feb U.S. establishes Naval Base, Sydney
- 4 Feb U.S. forms Australian-New Zealand naval command under VADM H. Fairfax Leary
- 6 Feb U.S. & UK establish Combined Chiefs of Staff
- 15 Feb Fall of Singapore ends campaign in Malaya; 8th Australian Infantry Division destroyed during campaign
- Feb–Mar During various naval battles in the Netherlands East Indies (Indonesia), U.S., British, Dutch, and Australian forces (ABDA) attempt to blunt Japanese assaults. Allied forces defeated with heavy losses in ships. U.S. losses include the heavy cruiser *Houston*, the seaplane tender *Langely*, and several other ships. Australia loses the light cruiser HMAS *Perth*

- 19 Feb Japanese carrier planes bomb Darwin, Australia, sink U.S. destroyer *Peary*, transport *Meigs*, and several other ships damaged. Darwin abandoned as a naval base the next day. Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) and U.S. Army Air Forces (USAAF) continue to operate from air bases outside of Darwin
- 20 Feb U.S. carrier task force attempts to raid Japanese base at Rabaul but turns back after being spotted by Japanese aircraft
- 24 Feb U.S. carrier task force raid Japanese on Wake Atoll
- 3 Mar Japanese bomb Broome, Australia
- 3 Mar U.S. submarine tender *Holland* arrives in Fremantle, Australia, from Java; start of U.S. submarine basing at Fremantle
- 4 Mar U.S. carrier task force raid Japanese on Marcus Atoll
- 8 Mar Japanese naval force (Rear Admiral Kajioka Sadamichi) occupies Lae and Salamaua, New Guinea
- 10 Mar The Lae-Salamaua Raid: Task Force (TF) 11 (Vice Admiral Wilson Brown Jr.), which includes ships of TF 17 (Rear Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher), having gained crucial last-minute intelligence on the region in flights to Port Moresby and to Townsville, on the heels of initial nuisance raids by RAAF Hudson bombers, attacks Japanese invasion fleet (Rear Admiral Kajioka Sadamichi) off Lae and Salamaua, New Guinea  
  
 Douglas SBD Dauntless scout bombers from Bombing Squadron (VB) 2, Scouting Squadron (VS) 2, VB-5, and VS-5 and Douglas TBD Devastator torpedo bombers from Torpedo Squadron (VT) 2 and VT-5, supported by Grumman F4F Wildcat fighters from Fighting Squadron (VF) 3 and VF-42 from carriers *Lexington* (CV 2) and *Yorktown* (CV 5) fly over the Owen Stanley Mountains and sink armed merchant cruiser *Kongo Maru*, auxiliary minelayer *Ten'yo Maru*, and transport *Yokohama Maru*; and damage light cruiser *Yubari*; destroyers *Yunagi*, *Asanagi*, *Oite*, *Asakaze*, and *Yakaze*; minelayer *Tsugaru*; seaplane carrier *Kiyokawa Maru*; transport *Kokai Maru*; and minesweeper *No.2 Tama Maru*. One SBD (VS 2) is lost to antiaircraft fire  
  
 USAAF B-17s and RAAF Hudsons conduct follow-up strikes but inflict no appreciable additional damage.

In a message to Prime Minister Winston Churchill, President Franklin D. Roosevelt rightly hails the raid as “the best day’s work we’ve had.” The success of the U.S. carrier strike (the first time in which two carrier air groups attack a common objective) 104-planes strong, convinces Japanese war planners that continued operations in the New Guinea area will require carrier support, thus setting the stage for confrontation in the Coral Sea. Australian-supplied intelligence information, that a critical pass through the Owen Stanley Mountains was free of clouds for only a relatively short time each day, ensures success.

- 17 Mar FDR & Churchill agree that the U.S. is responsible for defense of the entire Pacific, including Australia; British assume responsible for defense of the Indian Ocean and Middle East
  - 17 Mar Gen. MacArthur arrives in Australia from Philippines
  - 30 Mar MacArthur designated Allied Supreme Commander Southwest Pacific; Adm. Nimitz designated Commander in Chief Pacific Ocean Areas
  - Mar–Apr U.S. Army Air Forces move a mixed force of light, medium and heavy bombers, as well as fighters, onto three Queensland, Australia, airfields (Charters Town, Townsville, and Cloncurry) and fighters into Port Moresby, New Guinea
  - 9 Apr U.S. and Filipino forces on Bataan surrender
  - 18 Apr Lt. Col. Doolittle leads raid against Tokyo, Yokohama, Yokuska, Kobe, and Nagoya in USAAF B-25s launched from the aircraft carrier *Hornet*; task force also includes the carrier *Enterprise*
  - 29 Apr Japanese naval force (3d Kure Special Landing Force) occupies former RAAF seaplane base at Tulagi, Solomons
  - 2 May Japanese special landing force (3d Kure Special Landing Force) lands on Florida Island, Solomons
- SBDs of VS-5 and TBDs of VT-5 from carrier Yorktown (CV 5) bomb Japanese submarine *I-21* in the Coral Sea. *I-21* reports being attacked by planes, but significantly fails to specify whether or not her attackers are land- or carrier-based, thus ensuring that TF 17’s approach to the Solomons remains undetected.

4 May

Battle of the Coral Sea opens as TF 17 (Rear Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher) attacks Japanese Tulagi Invasion Force (Rear Admiral Shima Kiyohide) at Tulagi, Solomons, where elements of the Japanese 3d Kure Special Landing Force have gone ashore (as well as on neighboring Gavutu) to establish defenses between 29 April and 2 May

SBDs and TBDs (VB-5, VS-5, VT-5), supported by F4Fs (VF-42) from carrier *Yorktown* (CV 5), carry out three strikes against Japanese ships at Tulagi, sinking destroyer *Kikuzuki*, minesweeper *Tama Maru*, and auxiliary minesweepers *Wa 1* and *Wa 2* and damaging destroyer *Yuzuki*, minelayer *Okinoshima*, transport *Azumasan Maru*, and cargo ship *Kozui Maru*

Lieutenant John J. Powers of VB-5 participates in all three strikes, receiving credit for one direct hit, two close-misses, and a persistent low-level strafing attack. He will further distinguish himself on 7 and 8 May

Destroyer *Hammann* (DD 412) rescues two downed F4F pilots (VF-42) from Guadalcanal

Destroyer *Perkins* (DD 377), however, sent to retrieve downed two-man TBD crew (VT-5) south of the island, does not locate the missing men. The pilot and his radioman (the usual third crewman in a TBD is not carried on this torpedo, vice high-level bombing, mission), though, do reach safety and ultimately sail from Guadalcanal to the New Hebrides in a schooner with a Chinese crew.

Japanese transports sail from Rabaul, bound for Port Moresby

7 May

Battle of the Coral Sea resumes as Rear Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher's Allied force turns north to engage Japanese Carrier Strike Force (Vice Admiral Takagi Takeo)

Support Group (Rear Admiral John G. Crace, RN) detached to intercept Port Moresby Invasion Force (Rear Admiral Abe Koso) is attacked by Japanese land attack planes carrying torpedoes (4th *Kokutai*) or bombs (*Genzan Kokutai*); destroyer *Farragut* (DD 348) is damaged by friendly fire while engaged in repelling air attack. Later, mistaken for the Japanese Port Moresby Invasion Force, Crace's ships are bombed by USAAF B-26s that straddle Australian heavy cruiser HMAS *Australia* (flagship) and near-miss heavy cruiser *Chicago* (CA 29) and destroyer *Perkins* (DD 377)

SBDs and TBDs (VB-2, VB-5, VS-2, VS-5, VT-2, VT-5) from Yorktown (CV 5) and Lexington (CV 2) attack Japanese Close Support Force (Rear Admiral Goto Aritomo) and sink small carrier *Shoho* in Coral Sea, off Misima Island. Loss of *Shoho* deprives the Japanese of her services in the projected Midway Operation.

During the action off Misima, Lieutenant John J. Powers (VB-5) and Lieutenant (j.g.) William E. Hall, USNR (VS-2) exhibit skill and determination in pressing home their attacks. That night, Lieutenant Powers (VB-5's gunnery officer), lecturing his squadron on point of aim and diving technique, advocates a low-level release point to ensure accuracy, a philosophy he had demonstrated in the attack on *Shoho*. Both Powers and Hall will further distinguish themselves the next day.

Mistaken at the outset for a carrier and a cruiser, oiler *Neosho* (AO 23) and destroyer *Sims* (DD 409), operating independently from the U.S. carrier force, are attacked by Japanese planes, although the enemy recognizes the mistake in time to avoid expending torpedoes; *Neosho* is damaged by bombs and a crashing dive bomber, and *Sims* is sunk

On board the crippled *Neosho*, Chief Watertender Oscar V. Peterson, although badly wounded, risks his life by closing bulkhead stop valves, receiving severe burns that result in his death. For his extraordinary heroism and distinguished gallantry at the cost of his life, Peterson is awarded the Medal of Honor, posthumously.

Japanese attempt to find U.S. force in waning daylight runs afoul of bad weather. Some of their carrier bombers actually enter the landing pattern over carrier *Yorktown*, but are driven off by antiaircraft fire and fighters. The operational losses of Japanese planes in the unsuccessful mission to find the Americans, however, lessens the number of effective aircraft they can employ the next day.

8 May

Battle of the Coral Sea concludes as carrier *Lexington* SBD (VS-2) sights Japanese Carrier Strike Force (Vice Admiral Takagi Takeo) formed around carriers *Shokaku* and *Zuikaku*. As VB-5's pilots leave the ready room on board *Yorktown*, Lieutenant John J. Powers exhorts his shipmates: "Remember the folks back home are counting on us. I am going to get a hit if I have to lay it [his bomb] on their flight deck." SBDs from *Lexington* and *Yorktown* damage *Shokaku* and force her retirement; Lieutenant Powers scores a direct hit on *Shokaku*, pressing home his attack to a perilously low altitude of 200 feet; he is last seen



attempting, unsuccessfully, to recover from his dive. For his heroism on this day (as well as on the previous day and on 4 May), Powers is awarded the Medal of Honor, posthumously.

*Zuikaku*'s air group suffers heavy losses. Damage to *Shokaku*, as well as to *Zuikaku*'s air group, prevents the use of those two carriers for several months, thus depriving the Japanese of their services in the projected Midway Operation. "Cross-decking" carrier air groups (taking one air group from one carrier and operating it from another) is apparently not practiced in the Japanese navy.

Japanese carrier bombers and attack planes hit TF-17. The comparatively few fighters on hand compels the continuation of the use of SBDs as a stop-gap anti-torpedo plane patrol. In the valiant effort, Lieutenant William E. Hall, USNR (VS-2), whose performance of duty the previous day as a bomber pilot had elicited favorable notice, distinguishes himself as a fighter pilot in attacking the Japanese planes pressing home their assault on carrier *Lexington*. Although Hall is badly wounded, he brings his damaged SBD back to his ship having participated in the destruction of at least three torpedo planes, bravery and skill rewarded with the Medal of Honor.

Japanese dive bombers and torpedo planes, however, manage to penetrate the screening aircraft and ships and damage carriers *Lexington* (with bombs and torpedoes) and *Yorktown* (with bombs). On board *Yorktown*, Lieutenant Milton E. Ricketts, who has served in the ship since she was commissioned in 1937, in charge of an engineering repair party, is mortally wounded when a bomb passes through and explodes just beneath his compartment, killing, stunning, or wounding all of his men. Despite his wounds, Ricketts opens the valve on a nearby fire plug, partially leads out the hose, and directs water into the burning compartment before he dies. For his extraordinary heroism, he is awarded the Medal of Honor (posthumously).

*Lexington* is further damaged when gasoline vapors are ignited, triggering massive explosions that lead to her abandonment. She is then scuttled by destroyer *Phelps* (DD 360).

The Battle of the Coral Sea is the first engagement in modern naval history in which opposing warships do not exchange a shot; all damage is inflicted by carrier aircraft. In halting the Japanese push southward and blunting the seaborne thrust toward Port Moresby, Coral Sea is a strategic U.S. victory. Damage inflicted by the *Lexington* and *Yorktown* Air Groups deprive the Japanese of three carriers (*Shokaku*, *Zuikaku*, and

*Shoho*) earmarked for the planned Midway Operation slated for June 1942. Failure to take Port Moresby by sea forces the Japanese to adopt an overland strategy that ultimately proves disastrous.

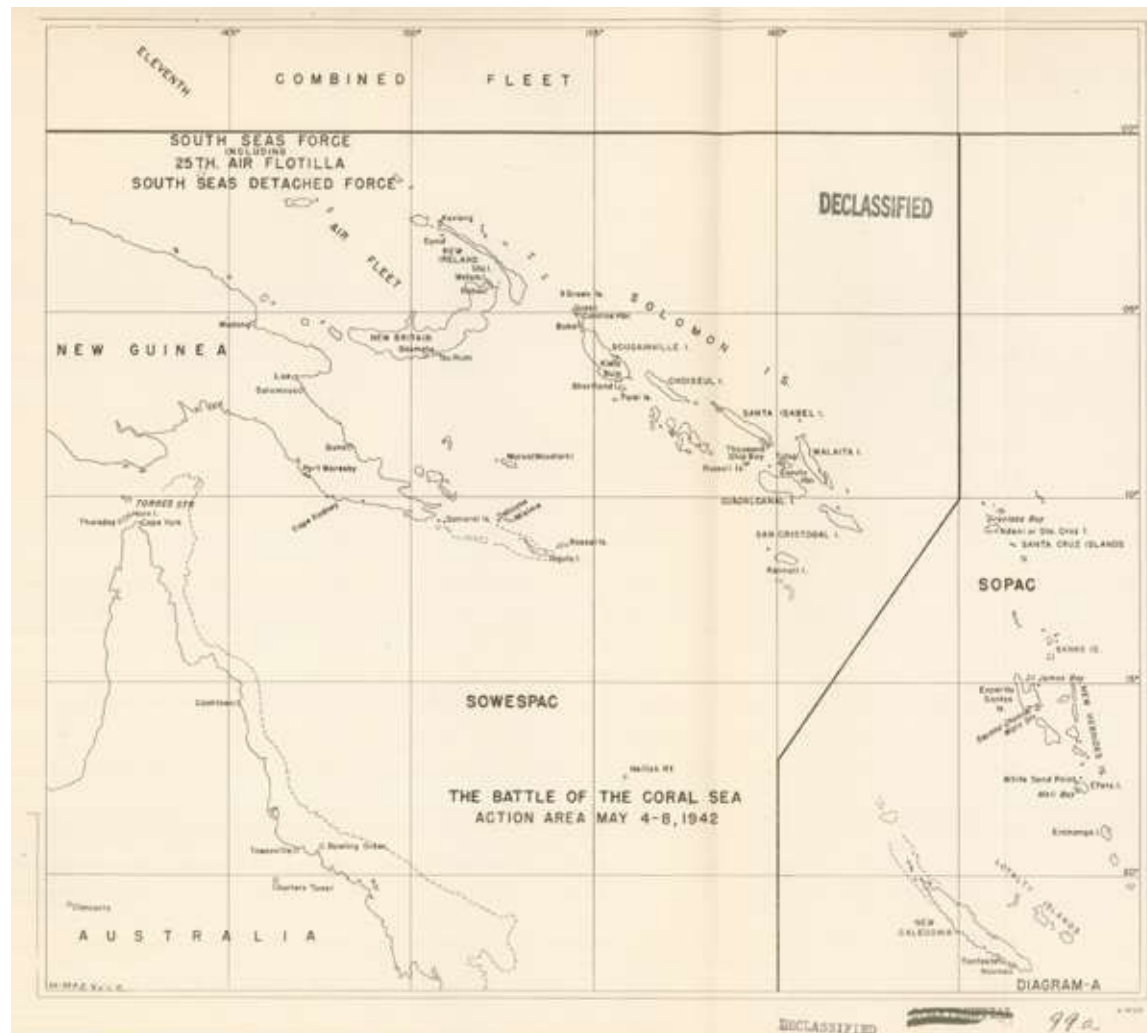
11 May In the wake of the Battle of the Coral Sea, oiler *Neosho*, damaged and adrift since 7 May and deemed beyond salvage, is scuttled by torpedoes and gunfire of destroyer *Henley* (DD 391), which rescues survivors from *Neosho* and *Sims* (DD 409). Among those men is the injured Chief Watertender Oscar V. Peterson, who dies of his wounds.

Submarine *S-42* (SS 153) torpedoes Japanese minelayer *Okinoshima* (damaged by *Yorktown* Air Group planes at Tulagi on 4 May 1942) west of Buka Island, Solomons.

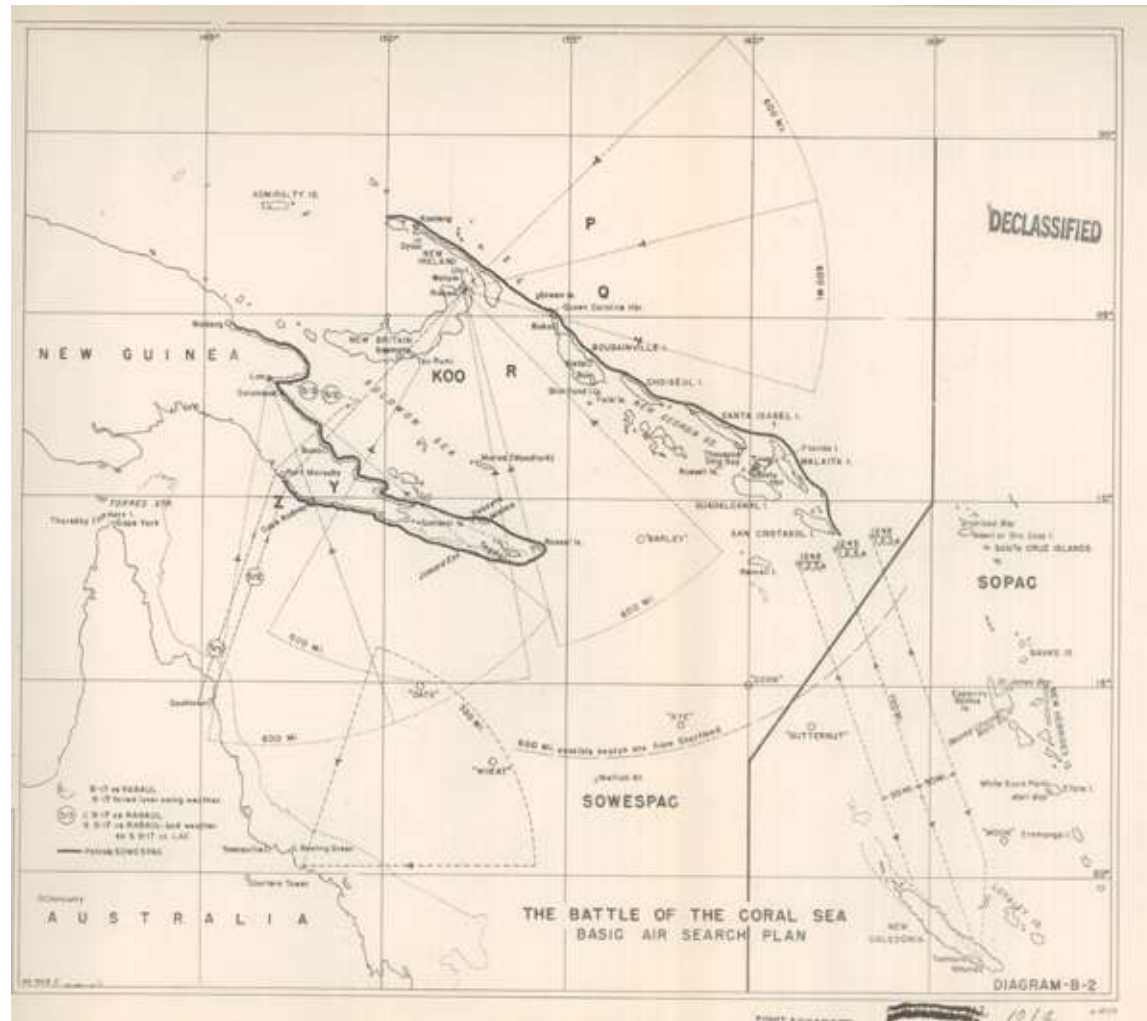
12 May Submarine *S-44* (SS 155) torpedoes and sinks Japanese repair ship *Shoei Maru* 15 miles southwest of Cape St. George, and survives counterattacks by her victim's escort. *Shoei Maru* had been en route to try and salvage the damaged minelayer *Okinoshima*. Attempt to save *Okinoshima* (damaged the previous day by *S-42*), by transport *Kinryu Maru* and destroyer *Mochizuki*, fails, and the doomed minelayer sinks, essentially the last ship casualty of the Battle of the Coral Sea.

# **APPENDIX II**

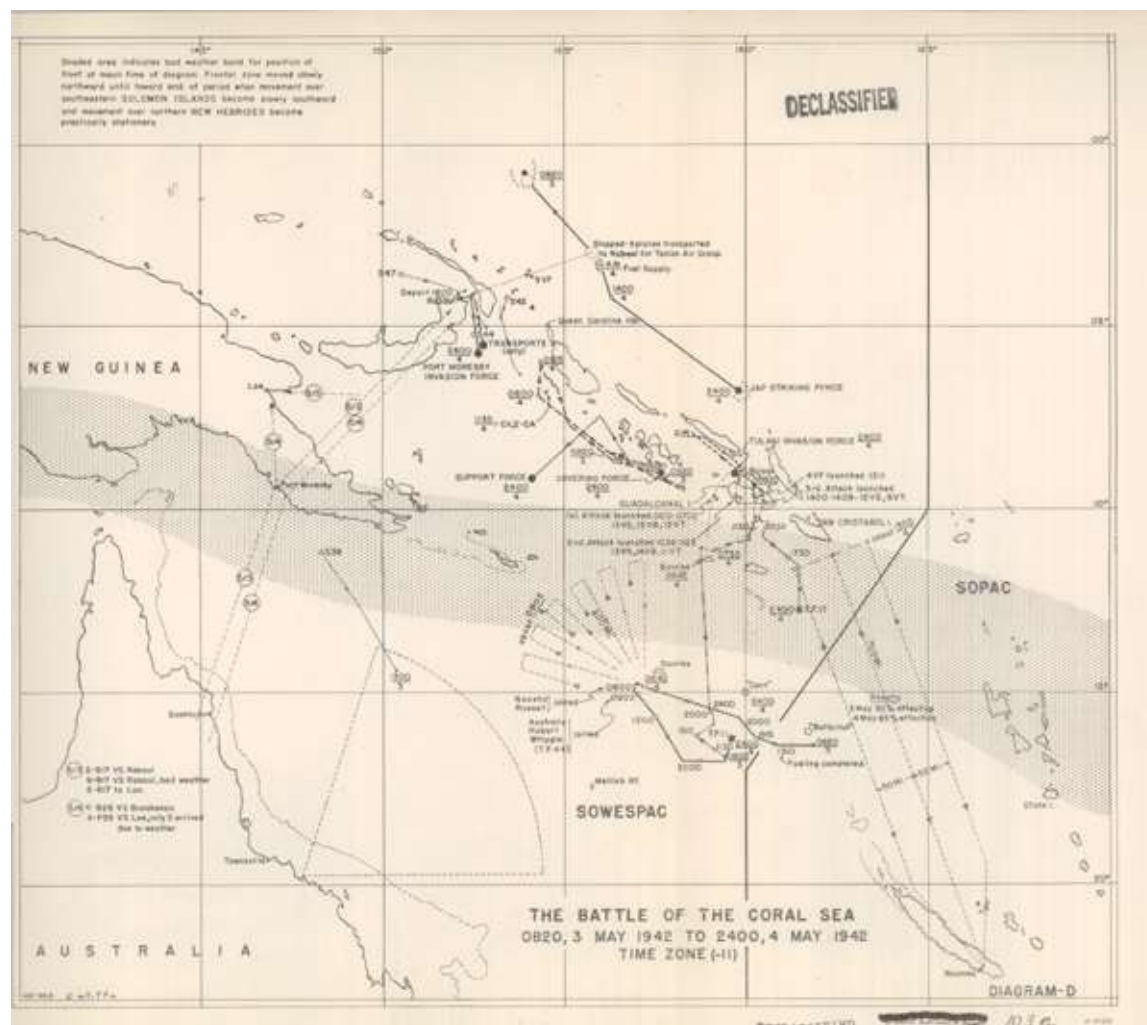
## **ADDITIONAL MAPS**



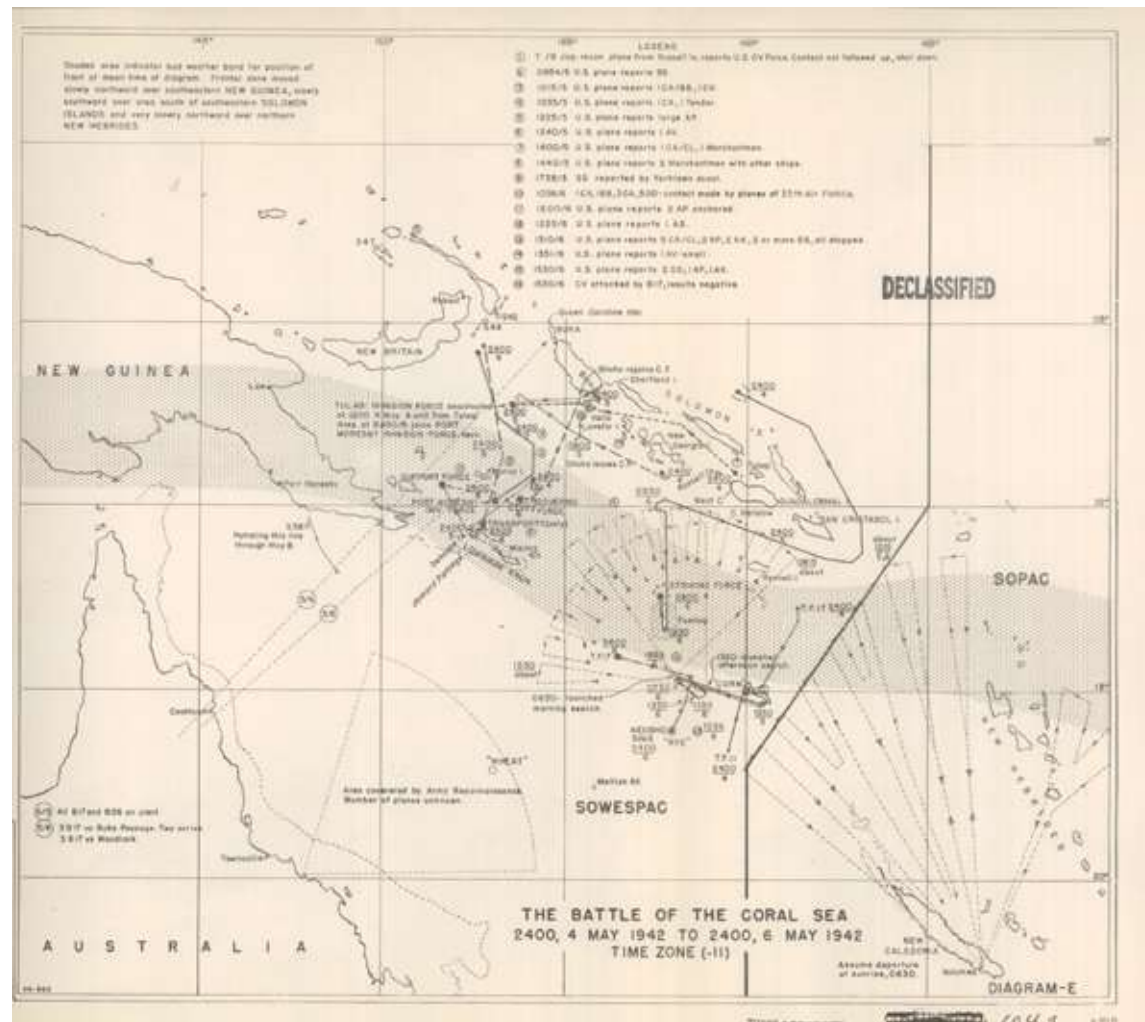




Basic air search plan for Coral Sea



Actions 3-4 May 1942, Battle of the Coral Sea



Actions 4–6 May 1942, Battle of the Coral Sea

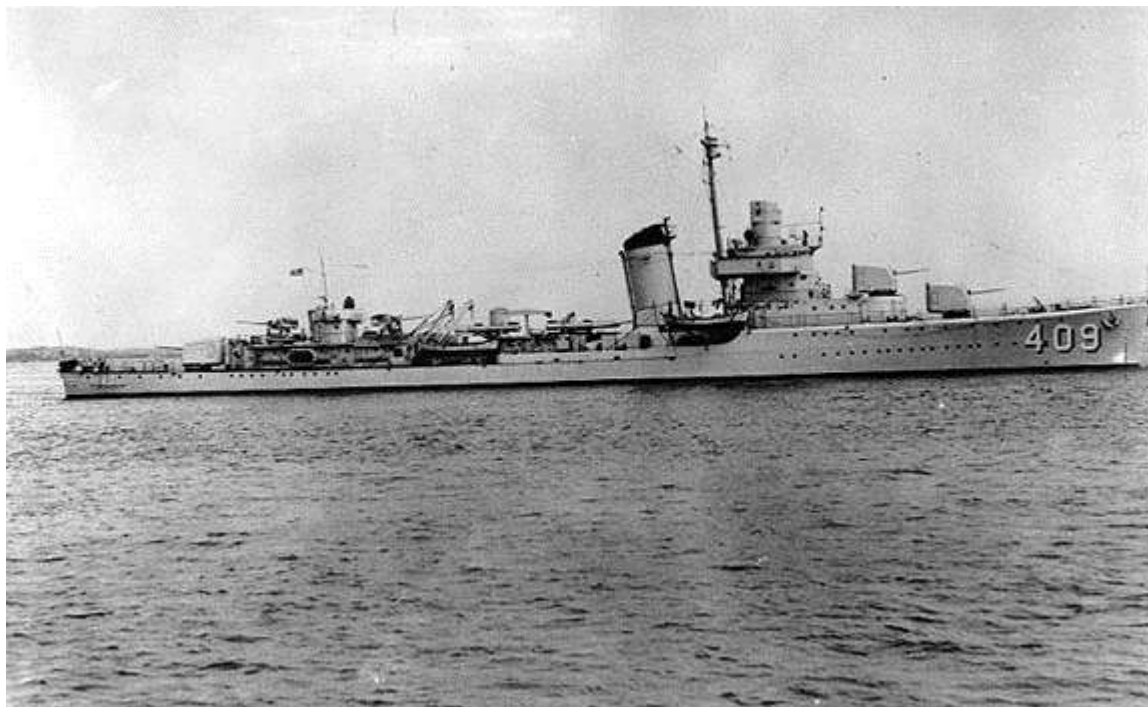


## **APPENDIX III**

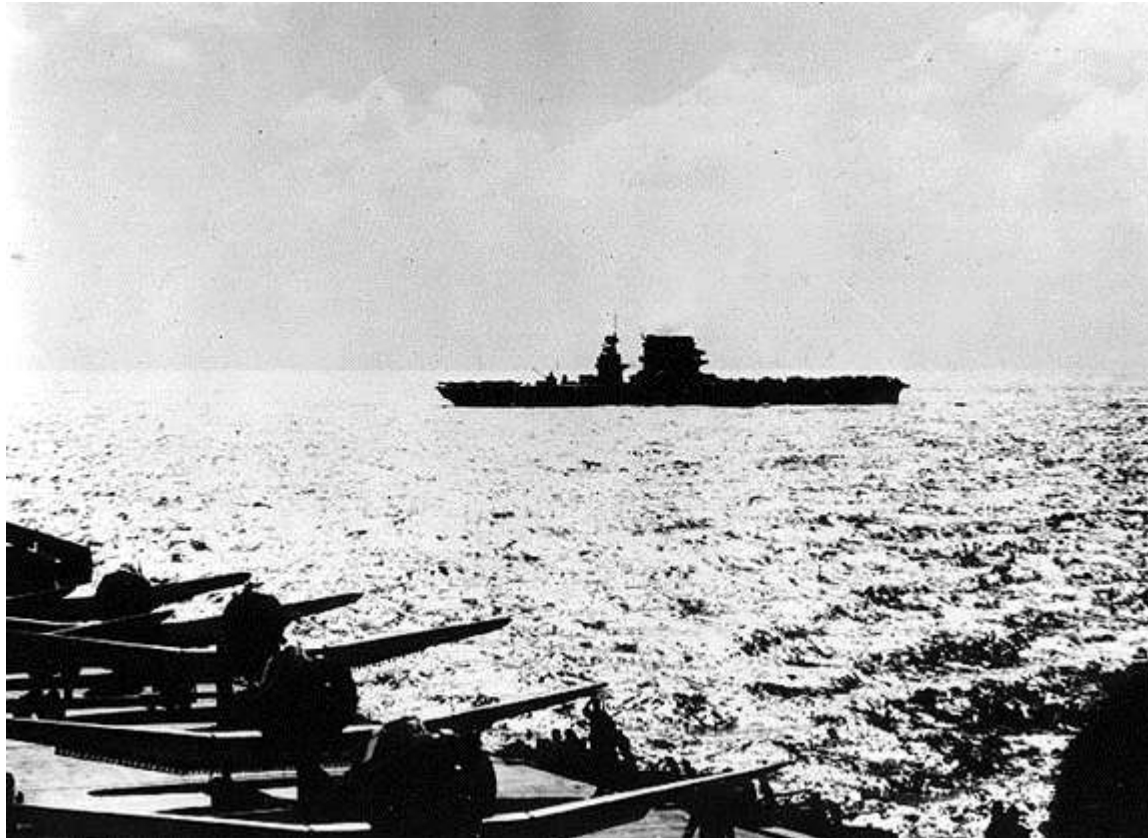
### **ADDITIONAL PHOTOS**



Grumman F4F Wildcat fighters from VF-6 flying from *Enterprise*, spring 1942, are similar to the fighters flown by fighting squadrons on *Lexington* and *Yorktown*



Destroyer USS *Sims* was lost during the Battle of the Coral Sea



*Lexington, down by the bow, seen from Yorktown, Battle of the Coral Sea*



Crew abandoning burning *Lexington*, Battle of the Coral Sea



*Lexington* being abandoned as seen from an escorting heavy cruiser, as a destroyer stands by to the left



*Yorktown* under attack, Battle of the Coral Sea